

## Attachment D – Alternative Dispute Resolution

---

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS-ADR-04  
01/01

---

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM**  
**Agreement to Mediate - Program Disputes**

---

The parties voluntarily agree to engage in mediation. The parties understand that the mediator has no authority to decide the case and is not acting as advocate or attorney for any party. The parties understand that they have a right to have a representative assist them during the mediation process.

The parties have been informed of other avenues of redress that may be available to them, namely the program complaint and appeals processes, and the time frames associated with them.

Mediation is a confidential process to the extent allowed by law and does not extend to threats of imminent physical harm. Any documents submitted to the mediator and statements made during the mediation are for resolution purposes only. The parties understand and agree not to subpoena or require the mediator (s) to testify or produce records, notes or work products in any future proceedings and that they will make no recording or records of the mediation sessions.

No party shall be bound by anything said or done at the mediation unless a written agreement is reached and signed by all necessary parties. If an agreement is reached, the agreement shall be reduced to writing and, when signed and approved by the appropriate authorities for all parties, will be executed by them in good faith.

**By signature, we acknowledge that we have read, understand and agree to the Agreement to Mediate.**

Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mediator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mediator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_